

ZANZIBARI YOUTH: Assets & Opportunities

YouthMap, a program of the International Youth Foundation, is a four-year initiative to assess youth circumstances and support promising youth development programs and practices in eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

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The International Youth Foundation (IYF) invests in the extraordinary potential of young people. Founded in 1990, IYF builds and maintains a worldwide community of businesses, governments, and civil-society organizations committed to empowering youth to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. IYF programs are catalysts of change that help young people obtain a quality education, gain employability skills, make healthy choices, and improve their communities.

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ZANZIBARI YOUTH POSSESS MANY QUALITIES AND SKILLS BUT FACE significant challenges as part of their transition to adulthood, which diminish their ability to contribute to the overall development of Zanzibar. Recognizing this, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) has developed policy frameworks addressing youth issues, although they face considerable implementation challenges. These policies include the *Zanzibar Youth Development Policy*, *Youth Employment Action Plan*, and *Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty* (MKUZA II). The YouthMap assessment utilized purposive sampling strategy to select and learn from Zanzibari youth and stakeholders from public sector, civil society, and education institutions in order to better understand the situation of young people. It captured youth perspectives on the education, employment, health, and governance sectors, as well as cross-cutting issues such as gender and technology.

Key findings are as follows:

- Both employers and young people feel that training courses are not aligned with the labor market and fail to prepare youth to take advantage of livelihood opportunities in Zanzibar.
- While interested, young people are discouraged from working in agriculture due to perceived barriers such as lack of access to land and training.
- Zanzibari youth are not actively participating in politics due to limited space for youth, and cultural perceptions, which particularly impact young women.

YouthMap participants provided the following recommendations:

- Align tertiary and vocational skills training programs with current and future labor market demands so they respond to the needs of employers. Through partnerships with employers, follow up with regular information exchange that helps identify skills needs and job opportunities.
- Incentivize youth to participate in the agriculture sector, through provision of skill development, access to finance and markets, and subsidized agricultural inputs. Targeted skills training, mentoring, and cultural dialogues can be introduced to empower young women to engage in jobs traditionally held by young men.
- Expand access to youth-friendly sexual reproductive health services and promote health seeking behavior among youth in a culturally appropriate manner.
- Establish culturally appropriate institutional frameworks that allow young people to dialogue with older people—and encourage youth participation in politics and civic activities. This could include strengthening of the National Youth Council as envisaged in the National Youth Policy.
- Find avenues for youth to participate in monitoring the government's use of public resources and provision of social services working with government authorities and local civil society groups.
- Integrate women's empowerment approaches to build self-confidence, leadership, and life skills of young women so they can make positive life decisions and become economically productive (e.g., including

female trainers and mentors; creating women-friendly training environments to discuss women's rights and gender issues; providing other support such as childcare and transportation so that young women can fully participate in programs; advocacy and sensitization efforts targeting employers).

Over half of the YouthMap participants¹ in Zanzibar reported completing secondary education. Ninety-seven percent of female respondents and 100 percent of male respondents reported that they could read and write in Kiswahili, compared to 76 percent of female respondents and 75 percent of male respondents reporting literacy in English. Despite these basic skills, nearly 60 percent of the YouthMap respondents were not working (of which only 20 percent were in school). Among those not working, nearly 60 percent were looking for work. Youth felt that education and training courses offered by various institutions are not aligned with the labor market; therefore, do not prepare them well for the workforce. In MKUZA II, the RGoZ acknowledges that there is limited capacity for technical and vocational education, resulting in a significant proportion of skilled labor imported from outside the island.

Only nine percent of working young men stated that their income was sufficient to meet their basic needs, and none of the working young women felt sufficiently compensated. The YouthMap labor market survey reveals that the technical skills most valued by employers include computer skills, customer service, sales and marketing, and manual skills. Valued soft skills include strong work ethics, integrity, loyalty to the company, and communication skills; however, the study finds youth are not aware of the importance of life skills. Employers cited high turnover and lack of necessary technical and soft skills as major barriers to hiring qualified youth. The agriculture and tourism sectors in particular show promise for youth employment, yet many young people also feel discouraged to work in agriculture due to perceived barriers such as lack of access to land, few incentives, outdated farming techniques, inadequate training, and their perception that agricultural work is for older people. Zanzibari youth said they are very interested in tourism. Hotel construction in rural areas is one reason that rural youth are pursuing jobs in this sector. Young women also expressed a growing interest in the tourism sector despite cultural norms that result in men often holding visible positions. Sub-sectors of particular interest include:

tour guiding, hotel and hospitality, food and beverage, sales and ticketing, and transportation.

Despite RGoZ efforts to encourage greater access and provision of sexual and reproductive health services, youth revealed that they do not voluntarily check for their health status. This is due to cultural underpinnings, unfriendliness of service providers, and general lack of awareness. With respect to information sources, both radio and television were preferred sources for health-related information. There is potential to utilize mobile phones to distribute health information from respected sources. Over 80 percent of participants (82 percent of women; 84 percent of men) reported owning a mobile phone, and 97 percent (100 percent of women; 94 percent of men) reported having access to a mobile phone. Fewer youth reported having access to a computer and the Internet daily—18 percent (18 percent of women; 19 percent of men) and 26 percent (27 percent of women; 25 percent of men), respectively. Radio is still the most accessible medium for most youth, but internet access is growing and mobile phones are already easily obtained.

YouthMap assessment findings suggest that young people in Zanzibar are not actively participating in politics. Only 26 percent of participants (33 percent of women; 19 percent of men) were engaged in political activities such as voting and joining political parties. This is due in part to the institutional structures and adult perceptions that do not encourage youth participation. Young people are not encouraged to represent at the Shehia² level and be members of Shehia development committees. Political parties in Zanzibar do not have space for youth to compete for political positions. Young people feel used instead by political parties in peripheral activities such as community mobilizing, intimidating opponents, and campaigning for adult politicians. Feeling discouraged, youth do not see any benefits of participating in politics thinking that their voices are not being heard. Only 49 percent of youth reported voting in the 2010 general elections. Among those who did not vote, 76 percent were under 18 years old. Regardless, many youth are eager to vote in the upcoming general elections (52 percent of women and 48 percent of men).

Less than 25 percent of participants think that the Tanzanian Government is effective in managing public

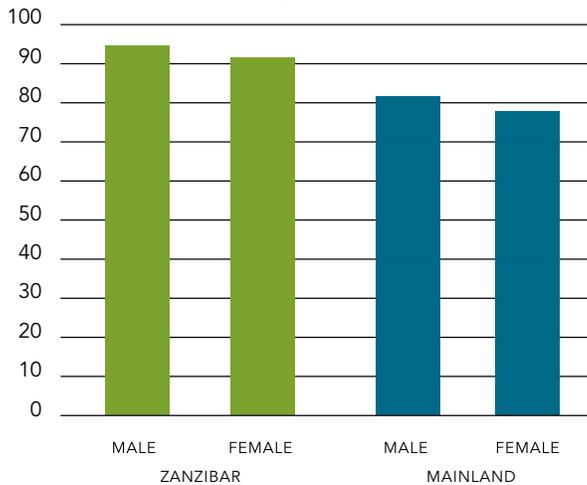
resources and delivery of public services, compared to the rest who felt it is somewhat or not effective at all. In their opinion, the government has done poorly in the provision of public services citing corruption and frequent power rationing as examples. They are eager to be empowered so that they can develop necessary skills to participate in politics and contribute to broader development efforts.

YOUTH AT A GLANCE

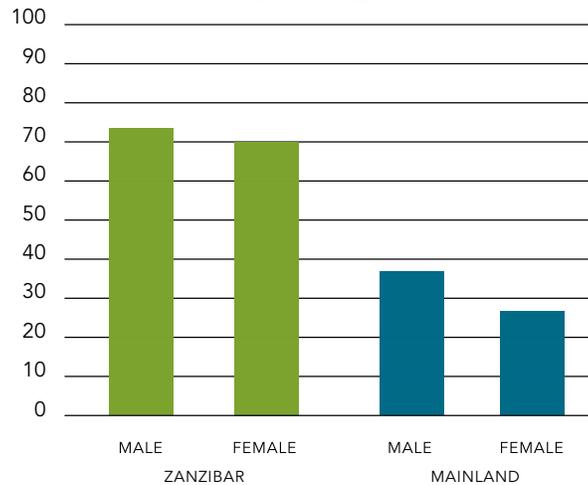
Zanzibari youth tend to be better educated but are less likely to be employed than their counterparts on the mainland. Agriculture and tourism are the primary

industries employing youth. While Zanzibar has relatively strong youth literacy and secondary school completion rates, the gender gap is much more pronounced than on the mainland. Health indicators for Zanzibari youth also diverge from the mainland, as Zanzibari youth are less likely to have multiple partners and teenage pregnancy is less common. Zanzibar, while part of Tanzania, has its own political leadership and the independence debate is a central issue in Zanzibari politics affecting and concerning young people. While youth do get involved in politics, they are more likely to engage in their community, and have articulated a desire to participate more in both spheres.

Literacy Rate



Secondary or Higher Ed.



Tanzania Demographic Health Survey (TDHS) 2010

TDHS, 2010

Comprehensive Knowledge about AIDS



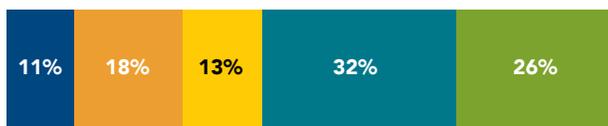
TDHS, 2010

Employment in Last 12 Months



TDHS, 2010

Have you attended a community meeting?



- No, I would never do this
- No, but I would if I had the chance
- Yes, once or twice
- Yes, several times
- Yes, often

POLICY AT A GLANCE

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) has developed a set of policies and strategies to address youth issues, some of which are discussed below.

- The *Zanzibar Youth Development Policy*³ was formulated in 2005, which has since been revised to cater for new developments affecting youth. The new policy (2012-2017) seeks to change the community and youth perceptions so that they acknowledge young people's role in the development of the nation and lead in the fight against poverty. Some key statements from the policy are found below.
- The *Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty: 2010-2015 (MKUZA II)*, released in 2010, outlines strategies to promote youth entrepreneurship and access to business development services.⁴ It aims to improve access to markets, credit, and technology, as well as strengthen the business management skills of youth.
- The Ministry of Labor, Youth, Women and Children Development produced the *Youth Employment Action Plan* in 2007, aiming to create a framework for the public sector, private sector, and civil society to work together in addressing youth unemployment in Zanzibar. It includes a roadmap to achieve five objectives: make employment a national priority, improve the environment for starting and running businesses, promote equal access to employment for youth, reform the education system to improve basic skills, and establish a coordination mechanism.⁵

Education

"Life skills and vocational training will be provided to youth with training, tools, and experience to enable them to be employed."

-The Zanzibar Youth Development Policy, 2005

Employment

"Priority will be given to the private sector, government and non-government institutions, and other stakeholders in increasing employment to youth and giving them development loans."

-The Zanzibar Youth Development Policy, 2005

Youth Development

"The Main Aim of the Policy: To change the perspective of youth in recognizing and contributing to national development and thus leading the fight against poverty."

-The Zanzibar Youth Development Policy, 2005

Health

"Education will be provided to youth on caring about their health, self recognition of disease, how to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, and totally abstaining from drug abuse."

-The Zanzibar Youth Development Policy, 2005

Democracy and Governance

"Youth will participate through involvement in making decisions concerning their development and the nation's development economically, socially, and politically."

-The Zanzibar Youth Development Policy, 2005

Other relevant policy documents include:

- Zanzibar National HIV Strategic Plan (ZNSP-II) 2011 – 2016 (2011)
- Zanzibar National Health Policy (2010)
- Zanzibar NGO Policy (2009)
- Zanzibar Employment Policy (2007)
- Zanzibar Education Development Program (ZEDP) 2008/09 – 2015/16 (2007)
- Zanzibar Education Policy (2006)
- Zanzibar Vision 2020 (2000)

OVERVIEW OF YOUTHMAP

YouthMap is a four-year program, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to assess youth circumstances as well as support promising programs and practices in positive youth development in up to eight countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The YouthMap assessments are designed to capture a comprehensive picture of the lives of young people, including how they spend their time, how they interact with each other and other segments of society, what services they utilize and what services they do not feel are accessible, as well as young people's hopes, aspirations, and challenges. Assessments investigate opportunities and challenges related to the major life transitions youth face as they move from childhood dependence to adult independent decision-making in the areas of: education and learning; employment and livelihoods; health; and democracy and governance. The Tanzanian assessment is the program's fourth, following completed assessments in Senegal, Uganda, and Mozambique.

YouthMap Tanzania seeks to better understand the opportunities and challenges facing young people through careful listening and analysis of their thoughts and aspirations—together with perspectives from other key stakeholders, to inform IYF and USAID program planning and implementation. IYF partnered with Restless Development to conduct this youth-led research, which included the following study objectives:

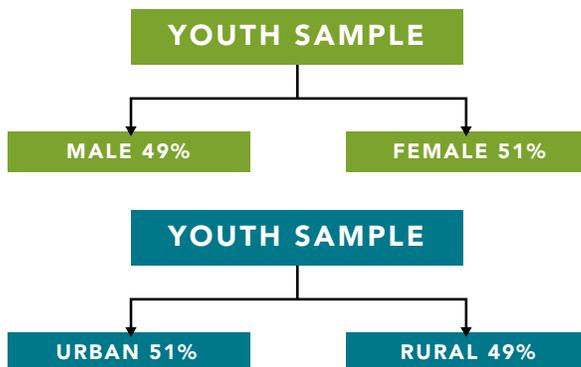
1. Better understand the challenges, hopes, and aspirations of young people;
2. Assess youth-serving infrastructure and services;
3. Identify and share successful models, lessons, and strategies to promote youth development;
4. Recommend options for youth programming and integrating youth into USAID activities.

METHODOLOGY

YouthMap primary research was carried out over a four-week period in ten districts in mainland Tanzania and two districts in Zanzibar. The program targeted youth aged 18-30,⁶ and used a mixed approach combining qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. Secondary research informed the primary research, providing a macro picture of the operating environment.

To capture youth voices firsthand, YouthMap conducted focus groups, rapid surveying, and interviews with 367 Tanzanian youth (65 from Zanzibar participated, 49 percent of whom were rural). A youth survey was administered with focus group participants to collect demographic data, as well as data related to the focus sectors. Individual interviews were conducted with youth identified as positive role models. Using semi-structured interview guides, YouthMap also conducted interviews with 118 stakeholders from the public and private sector, civil society, donor organizations, and education institutions who are most knowledgeable about youth conditions in Tanzania. The program's research methodology allowed YouthMap to identify promising sectors for youth employment, aligned with USAID priority sectors and within the country context. This purposive sampling strategy, allowed IYF to refine selection of 50 companies in targeted industries through coordinated input from USAID, local partners, and stakeholder contacts, ensuring representation from each target growth sector.

Figure 1: YouthMap Zanzibari Participants by Age, Gender and Cohort



Each value is a percentage of the overall YouthMap sample and each gender and age cohort value is a percentage of the total sample for that gender or age cohort.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Education

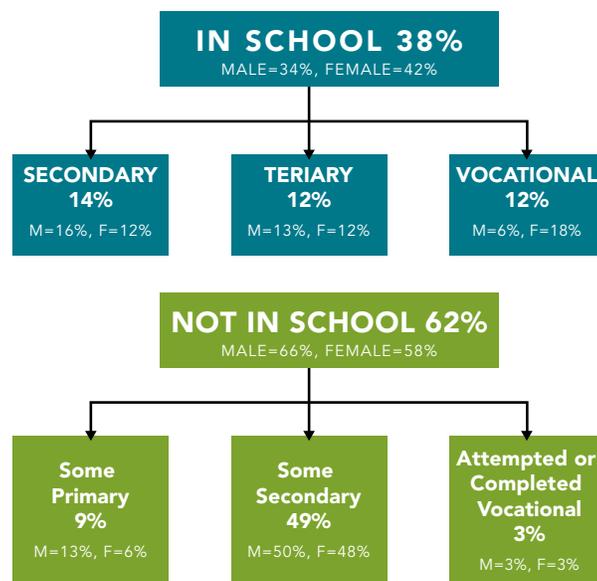
According to the National Bureau of Statistics, over 70 percent of youth aged 15-24 have secondary or higher education. Zanzibar's youth are performing particularly well with a literacy rate over 90 percent, which is more than ten points higher than their mainland counterparts.⁷ However, these educational achievements have not translated to higher education outcomes or strong employment statistics. Recognizing this, the RGoZ established the Higher Education Development Program, which strives to establish a better-coordinated higher education system, improve higher education delivery, enhance the relevance and range of curriculum offered, and develop the Technical and Vocational Training Development Program.⁸

Tanzania has limited technical and vocational education and training (TVET) capacity, resulting in skilled labor being imported from outside the country.⁹ Furthermore, a UNESCO report states that the government provides inadequate resources for facilitating youth development.¹⁰ *The Youth Employment Action Plan* supports this view by stating that the existing TVET system is not responsive to the needs of trainees or employers who have been unable to find qualified local workers in sectors such as tourism.¹¹

Educational Profile of Sample Youth

As shown in Figure 2, more than half of YouthMap participants had completed secondary education or higher, while 96 percent said that they could read and write in Kiswahili and 75 percent noted that they could read and write in English. No major variations were found by location and gender. These findings support the TDHS 2010 data that reported over 90 percent literacy level in Zanzibar.

Figure 2: Educational Profile of Participants in Zanzibar



Each value is a percentage of the overall YouthMap sample and each gender and age cohort value is a percentage of the total sample for that gender or age cohort.

Educational Opportunities

Upon completion of secondary education, youth can enroll in tertiary education or vocational training institutes. Alternative training programs are also available for those who do not complete school, and courses are provided by both public and private institutions. Table 1 summarizes the institutions and opportunities available for youth in Zanzibar.

Table 1: Summary of Institutions and Opportunities Available for Youth in Zanzibar

TERTIARY EDUCATION		VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND OTHER ADULT EDUCATION		
Government	Other Institutions	Non-Formal Education	Vocational Training	Adult Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State University of Zanzibar • The Zanzibar University • University College of Education-Zanzibar • Karume Institute of Science and Technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of Public Administration • Zanzibar Institute for Financial Administration • The College of Health Sciences • Four Teacher Training Institutions • Zanzibar Institute for Tourism Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative Learning • Literacy Program • Continuing Education • Skills Learning • Women Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five formal institutions registered by 2006 • Offer courses on skills such as carpentry and carving, blacksmithing, cookery, tailoring, electrical fitting, and masonry • New courses on computer literacy, accountancy and finance introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 130 literacy centers registered by 2004 • Offer continuing education, vocational training and skills training

Training courses offered by government-supported institutions include carpentry, electronics, sewing, and information technology. While some of these subjects such as information technology deliver skills to fill a need, both youth and key stakeholders felt that training courses offered by tertiary and vocational institutions are not well-aligned with labor market needs. Apart from offering the basic courses, private institutions are said to offer more practical courses that meet private sector employer needs, since they are required to demonstrate impact of their programs, unlike government-supported institutions. Consequently, private institutions (e.g., Kawa Training Centre for tourism) are generating considerable interest among potential trainees.

Access to Education

YouthMap participants shared key challenges that affect their access to tertiary and vocational education, which included high tuition fees, guardians and students questioning qualifications of Zanzibari teachers, and pre-enrolment requirements that discriminated against those who did not complete high school. One participant noted: “It is not easy for youth to access training courses

due to high tuition fees.” Another commented: “One of the questions asked by our prospective students and parents is where the teachers come from, as they [parents and prospective students] prefer teachers that are not from Zanzibar. They do not trust Zanzibari teachers—they think that they are not as competent.”

Religion and culture are other issues affecting young people’s access to education in Zanzibar. It was observed that parents tend to focus on religious education more than formal education, encouraging youth to attend religious schools over other options.

Gender was observed to play a key role in young people’s access to vocational education and employment opportunities in Zanzibar. For example, the mechanical engineering industry was noted to attract more men than women, while youth described how the tourism industry is more likely to employ young women in traditional roles as receptionists and waitresses, and young men as tour guides.

Figure 3: Percent of youth who feel their education prepared them for work



Nevertheless, improvements were noted with respect to women’s access to training: “Some things are changing, as a few years ago most of our registered students were men. From 2011, the numbers were balanced and last year we had more women than men,” stated a key informant from a training center in Zanzibar. Interestingly, mothers were said to be the ones pushing their daughters to enroll in training courses. It was further observed that once enrolled, women are more likely to finish the courses, while men tend to switch to “money making” activities instead.

Relevance of Education

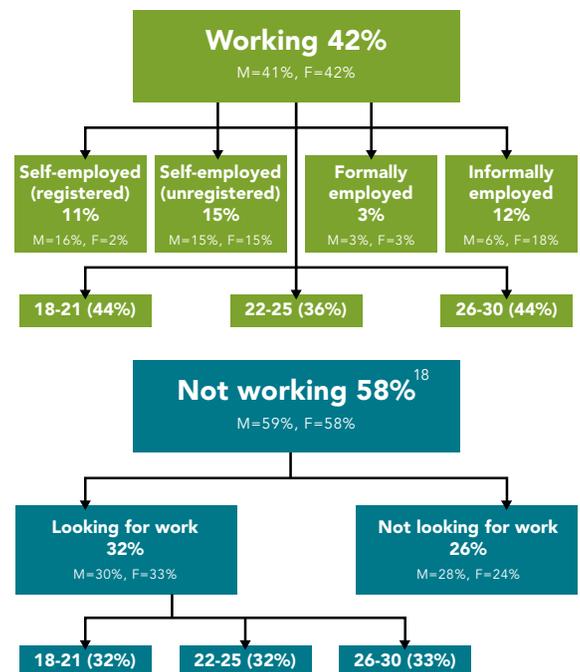
YouthMap participants felt the quality of education in Zanzibar is poor, which leads employers to hire employees outside of Zanzibar. Participants talked about a need for youth to learn how to express themselves freely and effectively. One participant stated, “Young people are not trained to communicate and express themselves particularly around customer service, and lack a commitment to the job; which is why people from outside Zanzibar get employed more easily.” Another participant said: “The Zanzibar education curriculum does not offer practical skills which makes it hard for us to be self-employed when we do not get formal employment.”

Despite these challenges, 63 percent of youth stated that they felt prepared to work based on their education background. Those who felt that they were not prepared cited a lack of skills such as basic reading, writing, mathematics, computer skills, and entrepreneurial skills. Trade skills such as electrical engineering, construction, and tailoring were also mentioned.

Employment And Job-Readiness

The Zanzibar Youth Employment Action Plan focuses on employment creation, employability, entrepreneurship, and equal opportunity.¹² While overall educational status in Zanzibar appears better compared to the mainland, employment opportunities are far fewer, especially for youth. The 2010 TDHS found that only 57 percent of young men and 35 percent of young women were employed that year, which reflects a considerable gender gap not seen on the mainland. Women in urban areas are the most likely to be unemployed, especially those under 40.¹³ In addition, men earn an average of two to three times as much as women.¹⁴ Sectors providing the most employment opportunities are agriculture and tourism, employing 41 percent and 17 percent of the workforce, respectively.¹⁵ However, youth participation in the agricultural labor force is relatively low.¹⁶ In response, RGoZ initiatives such as “Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation Initiative” encourage young people to work in agricultural enterprises.¹⁷

Figure 4: Employment Status of YouthMap Participants



Each value is a percentage of the overall YouthMap sample and each gender and age cohort value is a percentage of the total sample for that gender or age cohort.

As shown in Figure 4, only 42 percent of YouthMap participants were working at the time of the study. Less than 60 percent of unemployed youth were looking for work, the majority of whom had been looking for three to twelve months.

The assessment reveals that when young people are working, they do not always get compensated fairly. Even when compensated, their incomes are insufficient to cover basic expenses. Among working youth surveyed only 56 percent were compensated for their work, and out of this population 59 percent of young women stated that they received compensation compared to 41 percent of young men. Only nine percent of working young men stated that their income was sufficient to meet their basic needs, and none of the working young women felt sufficiently compensated.

Employment Opportunities: Employers' Perspectives

Employers interviewed in Zanzibar shared a willingness to hire youth. Companies in the following sectors are anticipating their businesses to grow (and to hire up to 100 new employees):

- Wholesale and retail trade;
- Repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles;
- Accommodation and food service activities;
- Manufacturing;
- Information and communication;
- Transportation and storage; and
- Agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors.

Technical skills required for such positions include computer skills, sales and marketing, accounting, customer service, administrative skills, and manual skills such as carpentry. Soft skills valued by employers include teamwork, strong work ethics, integrity, loyalty to the company, communications skills, problem solving, and managing emotions.

Agriculture Sector: Youth Interest and Opportunities

Despite RGoZ intentions to improve the agricultural sector per its MKUZA II strategy, Zanzibari youth appeared neither interested nor aware of work opportunities due to lack of information and perceived barriers to entry.

While there was not high enthusiasm in the focus groups, of those interested in agriculture, more were interested in production, transportation, and post-harvest management, than marketing and input supplies.

Many youth felt discouraged to participate in the agriculture sector, citing low returns for strenuous work.

“Mostly older people are involved with agriculture, as you need to have some land.”

- Key stakeholder, Zanzibar

“The government’s Kilimo Kwanza (Agriculture First) initiative mostly involves elders – but what will happen when they all die?”

- YouthMap participant, Zanzibar

Other challenges include: limited access to land and modern farming techniques, inadequate training, and lack of government incentives. YouthMap participants were not aware of business opportunities available in agriculture, calling for a need to demystify the value chain within the sector. The *Kilimo Kwanza* initiative advanced by the government to promote agriculture also came under scrutiny. According to youth, *Kilimo Kwanza* only targeted older people and as such was not attractive to them. There is a need for the development and implementation of a national strategy and programs that attract young people to enter the sector. Zanzibar imports food so there is a natural market for locally grown agricultural products. Fishing, likewise, has great potential as a growth sector for youth entrepreneurship since most fishing is done at the subsistence level and could be improved upon with modern equipment and more strategic business planning.

Tourism Sector: Youth Interest and Opportunities

The Zanzibar assessment reveals considerable opportunities for youth to engage in the tourism sector, particularly through construction of hotels in rural areas. Youth expressed strong interest in tourism, primarily in the hotel and hospitality industry and tour guiding, and less so in food and beverage services, sales and ticketing, and transportation.

One reason youth are motivated to enter the tourism sector is the perception that it is quick and easy money. “Tourism brings income faster with minimal effort,” noted one participant. However, in order to take advantage of available job opportunities, youth need to be trained in the many tourist languages, especially English, which many believe puts mainland Tanzanians at a greater advantage.

Training institutions such as the government-sponsored Zanzibar Institute for Tourism Development can potentially help address these skill gaps.

Skills Valued: Employers' Perspectives

Employers interviewed by YouthMap had mixed perceptions about employee training prior to joining their companies, with half of the employers surveyed stating that training was poor and the other half that it was good. The lack of specialized, practical training was often cited as a major challenge, particularly for technical areas such as electrical and mechanical engineering. The State University of Zanzibar was credited for preparing graduates well, and all companies except one were willing to pay for training services to better prepare young people to join their companies; as one employer stated simply: "We want qualified people."

Other employers were skeptical of youth, highlighting the need for work references due to their reputation for being unreliable. This causes frustration among youth striving to enter the labor market since they lack the work experience and employer contact necessary to provide such a reference. Employers and key stakeholders also expressed frustration that there was a lack of youth entrepreneurship, which they attributed to a lack of business training, mentorship, and financing.

Healthy Lifestyles

The Zanzibar Health Sector Reform Strategic Plan (ZHSRSP II) recognizes the need to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health through improving knowledge and access to youth-friendly facilities and services.¹⁹ One issue is that health topics such as HIV/AIDS are not routinely covered at either primary or high school levels. Currently, only 34 percent of young women and 30 percent of young men are considered knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS.²⁰ While some cultural opposition to condoms remains, there has been a sharp increase in contraceptive use: from 23.6 percent in 2006 to 42.2 percent in 2007.²¹ For young women aged 15 to 19, only 6 percent have begun childbearing, which is considerably lower than the Mainland.²² Similarly, only 0.4 percent of young women and 1.4 percent of young men reported having multiple sexual partners.²³

Focus groups revealed that youth lacked behaviors conducive to healthy living. "We do not live healthy lives. We do not exercise. We eat unhealthy food. We do not check our health status," said one unemployed youth. One in-school youth added: "Most young people eat what they get and not what they want." Most youth shared that they do not typically get tested for HIV/AIDS and STIs, except when one wants to get married. Fear and lack of education were some of the reasons cited for not checking their health status. One positive role model in Zanzibar noted that a lack of jobs and start-up capital are stumbling blocks that compromise healthy choices among youth, while another observed that compromising barriers to making healthy choices included lack of essential services and drugs.

Youth-Friendliness of Sexual Reproductive Health Services

YouthMap participants described a lack of access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services (SRH). Attributes which contribute to the "youth friendliness" of a health facility include the accessibility of the location and facility hours, the friendliness of staff, preparedness of staff to work with youth, including the level of privacy and confidentiality offered to youth, the availability of counselling, and affordable fees. It was stated that the current services are not gender-sensitive and do not make special provisions for young people; young married couples have unmet family planning needs; and there is limited sex education. Although SRH is in the school curriculum, students often do not learn the materials. One key informant noted: "Reproductive health education is in the curriculum but teachers don't feel comfortable talking about these issues."

SRH Access Barriers

The following barriers were identified as hindering youth access to SRH services:

- *Stigma around Using Family Planning Services:* Access to SRH services, especially family planning, by young people in Zanzibar is marred by stigma and discrimination with social and cultural underpinnings. For example, it is uncommon for young unmarried people to access such services. This was summarized by one key stakeholder:

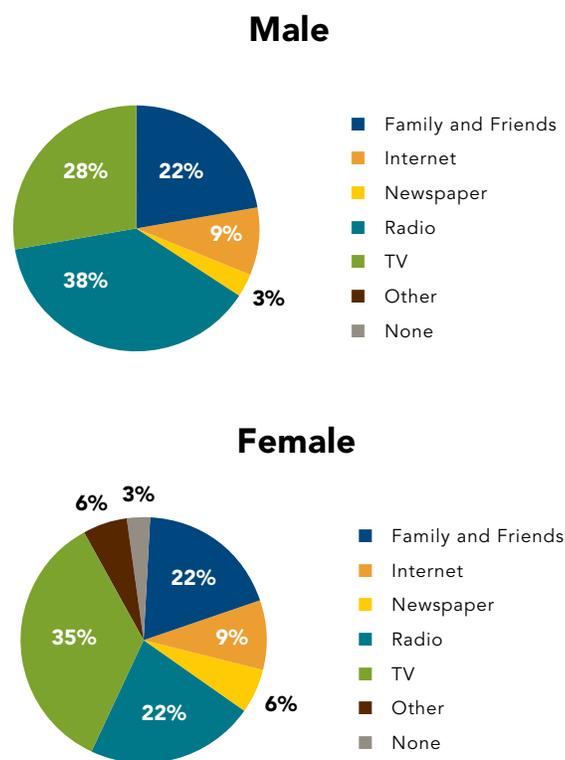
“There is a lot of stigma around accessing family planning services. The main idea is that young unmarried people don’t need them. It is not socially and culturally accepted to access services if unmarried.”

This prejudice against family planning was also reported to affect married couples, and to have hindered uptake of condoms. One key informant said, “In fact, condom use is extremely low in comparison to the mainland.” It was further observed that most married women in Zanzibar prefer to use arm implants as a form of family planning, as they are easy to use and can be easily hidden from their husbands.

- *Clinics Poorly Serviced and Equipped:* According to YouthMap participants, few Zanzibari clinics stock birth control or condoms. Respondents reported inadequate service and poor “bedside manner,” citing harsh words from service providers, quarrels between service providers and youth seeking SRH services, and being served by providers of the opposite sex as factors inhibiting youth from accessing SRH services.
- *Myths Surrounding Contraceptive Use:* Some YouthMap participants, stated that certain contraceptives had side effects, while others were concerned that implants could ‘get lost’ in the body.
- *Cost:* The issue of cost—especially among private service providers, was noted as hindering access to SRH services. “Government health centers provide SRH services free of charge while private service providers charge some fee,” noted YouthMap participants.
- *Information Sources:* During focus groups, it was reported that youth access health messages through their peers and family members such as aunts, especially when preparing to get married. “Just before they get married they get education from the family; an aunt comes and gives sexual and reproductive education,” observed a key stakeholder.

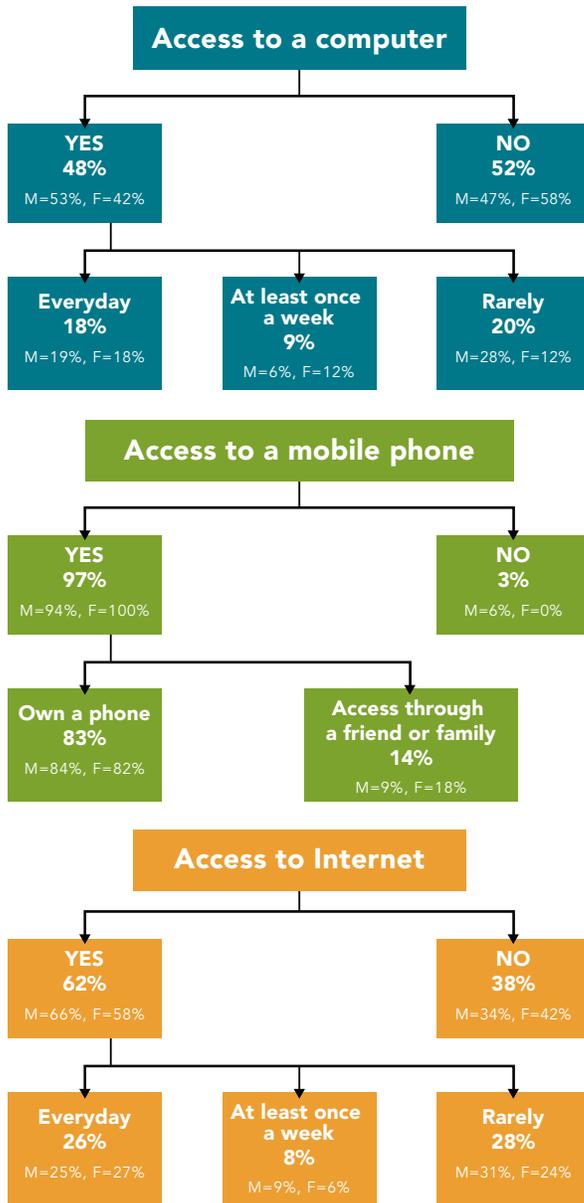
YouthMap survey results revealed that television and radio were the most trusted information sources (trusted by 68 and 57 percent of respondents respectively), while both radio and television were viewed as equally effective ways to communicate health messages (a number of stations already target the youth demographic). A detailed breakdown is provided in Figure 5. Participants noted that teachers are uncomfortable talking about these issues.

Figure 5: How Do You Get Health Information?



Related to access to technology and information sources, access to mobile phones in Zanzibar was reported to be lower than in Mainland Tanzania, with 83 percent of YouthMap participants owning mobile phones. For those who did not own mobile phones, 82 percent said they have access to a mobile phone through family and friends. Over half of youth have never used a computer before. With the Internet, 38 percent of youth never used it before (many youth reported having access to the Internet through their mobile phones). Only 18 percent reported having daily access to a computer, compared to about a quarter for the Internet.

Figure 6: Access to Technology



Each value is a percentage of the overall YouthMap sample and each gender and age cohort value is a percentage of the total sample for that gender or age cohort.

Political And Civic Participation

The *Youth Development Policy and Action Plan* set out to increase youth participation in Zanzibar’s public sphere. A youth council was established with its own constitution and the intention to develop into a youth forum.²⁴

Overall, participation in the last general election was high, with 89 percent voter participation in Unguja and 83 percent in Pemba.²⁵ Despite a high voter turnout, a 2008

Afrobarometer survey assessed that generally in Zanzibar and especially in Pemba, the political environment appears less healthy than in mainland Tanzania. For example, figures show that only 64 percent of Zanzibari perceive Tanzania as democratic, and over a third believe that their voices are not heard between elections.²⁶ The crucial political issue surrounds the union with the mainland.²⁷

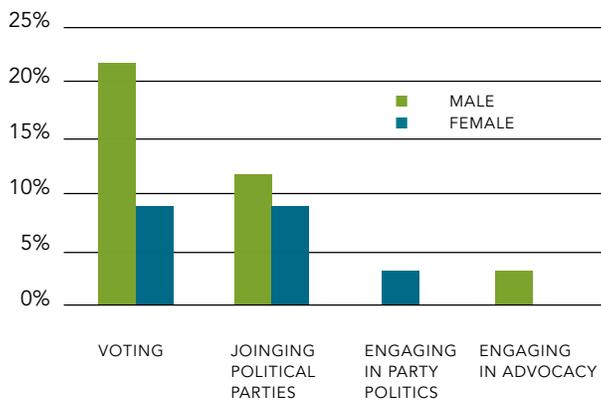
Political Participation

Only 26 percent of YouthMap participants were engaged in political activities, with urban youth slightly more likely to be engaged (30 percent for urban versus 22 percent rural). In terms of gender, more women (about a third of the sample) were engaged in politics compared to men (less than 20 percent). As shown in Figure 7, political involvement was mainly restricted to voting, which could indicate that women have recognized their voice and potential to affect political change through voting. Less than half of the politically active participants reported joining political parties, with engagement in party politics and advocacy activities reported at six percent.

Focus groups confirmed low youth membership in political parties, and few youth involved reported holding leadership positions, revealing barriers to entry. Some mentioned political activities included: rallying voters, intimidating voters of opposition parties, and holding protests for party leaders. It was reported that youth are often used by political parties to help with the election process both at the national and local levels. In some instances, political party leaders have been seen giving youth incentives to join their parties. For example, one key stakeholder noted: “[Political leaders] will provide idle youth with a TV to watch football games or provide a space for them to meet in order to gain youth’s loyalty.” Some key stakeholders discussed a lack of leadership skills among youth, and felt there was a need for better leadership training to produce stronger youth leaders and also help recognize positive and negative leadership characteristics.

There was a sentiment among youth that some political leaders use women and youth to campaign for them, often taking advantage of an uneducated segment of society. “Youth and women are often used by politicians to bring forward their agendas,” noted one young woman.

Figure 7: Political Activities of YouthMap Participants



Additionally, the study revealed a low level of interest in political participation among youth, who often view politics as a matter that does not concern them. One perceived barrier among youth is that while it is easy for them to work together in educational settings and sports, politics is more difficult. Other barriers include: a lack of funds to sponsor campaigns, discouragement from parents, nepotism, and corruption associated with the political process. Youth participants identified a need for good governance and leadership training to bridge this gap, which is particularly important given their perception that they do not benefit from politics—a profession where promises are made and nothing is implemented.

Zanzibari youth did not identify themselves as very politically active, yet they identified opportunities to engage with political structures in Zanzibar. According to YouthMap participants, avenues for political dialogue are created through ongoing parliamentary discussions by members of the House of Representatives.

Upcoming Election: An overwhelming majority of YouthMap participants (95 percent) reported their intention to vote in the 2015 elections. This is higher than in the last election, with 49 percent of participants saying they voted in 2010 (39 percent were too young; nine percent wanted to vote but were unable or did not know how). Intention to vote was marginally higher among young women (52 percent compared to 48 percent for men).

A notable link was reported between youth unemployment and social tension and unrest in Zanzibar. This was attributed to frustration among youth due to increased unemployment. “Radical Islam is growing in Zanzibar due to unemployment and lack of social safety nets to cater for unemployed youth,” observed a key informant from the civil society. This situation is further aggravated by the perception among Zanzibari youth that their jobs are being taken over by people from the mainland. This was identified as one of the reasons behind strong youth support for disbanding the union.

Perceptions of the Government

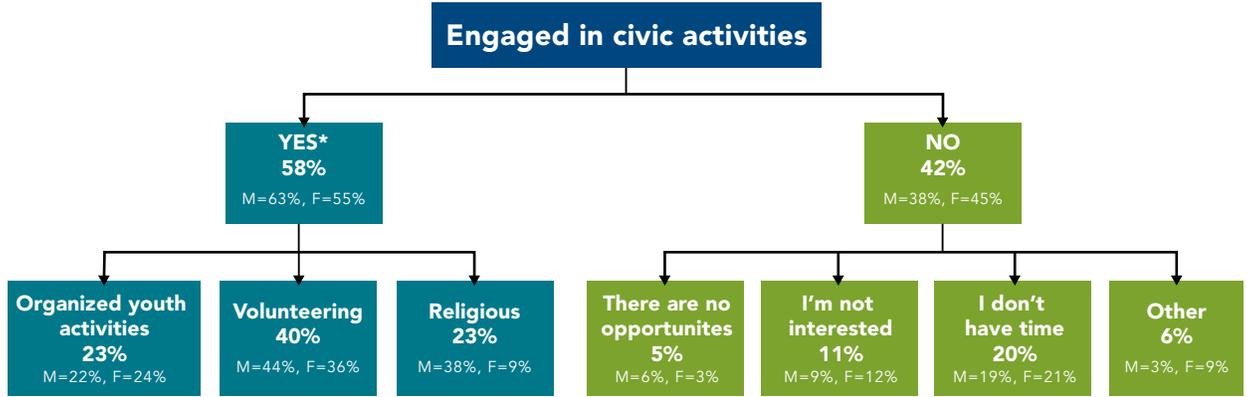
A majority of YouthMap respondents (63 percent) stated that the RGoZ was somewhat effective in managing public resources and delivering public services. Generally, youth in Zanzibar feel that the government has managed public resources well, as one young person observed, “The government has put guards to prevent destruction of forests. Sand harvesting is also an issue.” However, youth further noted that the government performed poorly in terms of service delivery. They cited the health sector, specifically regular harassment, stigmatization, and discrimination against those with health insurance cards.²⁸ YouthMap participants mentioned corruption as a key factor leading to mismanagement of public resources, while “power rationing” in the energy sector was noted by most youth as another area in which the government had failed to properly manage public resources. For the government to effectively manage these resources, youth recommended regularly evaluating government performance utilizing management tools.

Civic Participation

Nearly 60 percent of youth were engaged in civic activities (63 percent men versus 55 percent women). As shown in Figure 8, volunteering was the most common form of civic participation, more so than religious participation, and involvement in organized activities.

A prospect for future job opportunities was reported as the main motivation for civic participation. One case in point is a male role model in Zanzibar who has been volunteering his services to NGOs out of his own will as a means to become known in the community and create a name for future opportunities. For those not interested

Figure 8: Civic Participation of YouthMap Participants



*multiple selections allowed

Each value is a percentage of the overall YouthMap sample and each gender and age cohort value is a percentage of the total sample for that gender or age cohort.

in participating, they stated that it was a “waste of time.” Of those participants who did not engage in either civic or political activities, the vast majority cited a lack of time due to school, while others shared that although they participated in civic matters such as religious meetings, they did not see any benefits from their participation.

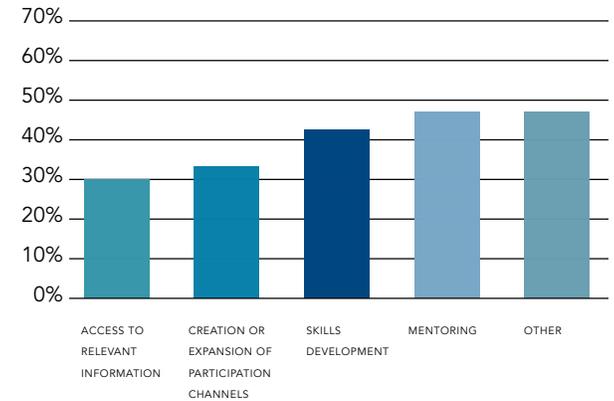
Civic education is taught in Zanzibari schools, yet culture has an important influence on youth participation in civic matters. In Zanzibar, it is often believed that young people should not speak in front of adults. In the Shehia, only older people are members and are allowed to contribute to discussions, thus denying the youth a chance to contribute to development issues. This sentiment was reflected in the following statement from a young person: “Most of the people who sit and discuss the development of communities are older people.”

To effectively participate in civic matters, there is an important need to advocate for change in the formulation of the Shehia – to allow youth membership and meaningful participation. One key informant expressed the need for youth to embody the spirit that “this is my country and I am the one who can change it.”

YouthMap participants in Zanzibar reported opportunities to participate in religious matters within the Muslim community—including leading prayers in Koran classes, as an avenue to encourage more and effective youth participation in civic matters. In addition and as a means to explore other channels, participation in community

policing was revealed as part of a focus group discussion with in-school youth.

Figure 9: How youth feel they can best be empowered to contribute to development?



Vision for Change

Young people view and want increased participation as their main vehicle to empowerment, allowing them to contribute toward change and development. Most youth (60 percent, see Figure 9) want to participate in meaningful decision-making opportunities where their ideas are taken seriously at the planning stage, and subsequently during implementation. In addition, a large percentage of respondents cited their needs more related to skills development for employment (42 percent) and mentoring (45 percent).

SUMMING UP

YouthMap asked young people in Zanzibar about their circumstances, challenges, and aspirations as part of their transition to responsible adulthood. They clearly articulated their ambitions, as well as socioeconomic and cultural issues affecting them in areas of education, employment, health, and leadership. Critical issues that were highlighted included: learning practical skills, securing meaningful work, receiving fair compensation, and accessing youth-friendly health services.

Young women face additional barriers to access services, but are increasingly engaging economically and politically. Young people of both genders talked about their strong desire to lead in their communities, while at the same time highlighting cultural and institutional barriers for them to participate in local governance systems. Nevertheless, many remain optimistic about the future, demonstrating their resilience and strong desire to learn, work, and lead.

ENDNOTES

1. “YouthMap participants” are young people who participated in the focus group discussions conducted as part of the assessment. “Key stakeholders” refer to key stakeholders interviewed from public, private, civil society, and donor organizations.
2. Shehia is one of the local governance structures in Zanzibar that follows after the district.
3. The *Zanzibar Youth Development Policy* was formulated by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar’s (RGoZ) Ministry of Youth, Employment, Women and Children Development.
4. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, *The Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty: 2010-2015 (ZSGRP II) - MKUZA II* (October 2010), 90 and 140.
5. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar Ministry of Labor, Youth, Women and Children Development “*Zanzibar Youth Employment Action Plan First Draft*” (July 2007).
6. While the national definition of youth in Tanzania is 15-35, USAID/Tanzania selected the 18-30 age cohort in order to collect focused data that yielded the most helpful information to support future program design that is sensitive and inclusive of youth conditions.”
7. National Bureau of Statistics, *Youth in Tanzania – Data from the 2010 TDHS* (2010), 26.
8. Bastos, C. et al., “*Review/Evaluation of the Performance of Tanzania’s Higher Education Institutions in Science, Technology and Innovation*,” (June 2011), 58 and 59.
9. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), *The Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty: 2010-2015 (ZSGRP II) - MKUZA II* (October 2010), 38.
10. UNESCO et al., *Regional Report on Youth Policies and Violence Prevention in the Great Lakes Region, 2nd Year* (2012), 29.
11. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) and Ministry of Labor, Youth, Women and Children Development *Zanzibar Youth Employment Action Plan First Draft* (July 2007), 34.
12. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ) Ministry of Labor, Youth, Women and Children Development “*Zanzibar Youth Employment Action Plan First Draft*,” (July 2007), 10.
13. International Labor Office (ILO) et al., “*Zanzibar Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review and Social Budget*,” (2010), 24.
14. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), “*The Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty: 2010-2015 (ZSGRP II) - MKUZA II*” (October 2010), 74.
15. International Labor Office (ILO) et al., “*Zanzibar Social Protection Expenditure and Performance Review and Social Budget*,” (2010), 33.
16. Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), “*Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010-2020 - For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood*,” (2010), 35.
17. Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), “*Zanzibar Agricultural Transformation for Sustainable Development, 2010-2020 - For Agricultural Productivity, Food Security and Sustainable Livelihood*,” (2010), 35.
18. Although 58 percent of all youth participants were identified as “not working,” only 32 percent of YouthMap participants would be classified as unemployed following the ILO and national definition of “unemployment” (<http://www.zanzibaremploymentservices.go.tz/laboursurvey>). Available youth unemployment statistics vary, but are often around 10 percent (http://www.zanzibaremploymentservices.go.tz/youth_unemployment.pdf). YouthMap’s higher unemployment percentage may be partly attributed to the purposive sampling strategy that targeted more vulnerable populations (e.g., inactive youth).
19. Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, *Zanzibar Health Sector Reform Strategic Plan II (2006/07 – 2010/11)*, 26.
20. United Republic of Tanzania (URT) National Bureau of Statistics, “*Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2010*” (April 2011), 211 and 234.
21. Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Poverty Eradication and Economic Empowerment Division, “*Millennium Development Goals Report – Mid-Way Evaluation 2000-2008*,” (2008), 16.
22. United Republic of Tanzania (URT) National Bureau of Statistics, “*Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2010*,” (April 2011), 65.
23. United Republic of Tanzania (URT) National Bureau of Statistics, “*Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey 2010*,” (April 2011), 65.

24. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (RGoZ), *The Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty: 2010-2015 (ZSGRP II) - MKUZA II*, (October 2010), 67.
25. European Union Election Observation Mission Tanzania – *Final Report General Elections October 2010*, (2010), 36.
26. Afrobarometer, *Tanzania Round 4*, (2008), analyzed from raw data.
27. Jansen. C.D., *Young People's possibilities for influence in Tanzania*, Danish Youth Council (July 2010), 10.
28. It is often perceived by health service providers that persons with health insurance cards are being treated on credit as opposed to those who come with cash.

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